

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2014-69-S - ORDER NO. 2014-655
AUGUST 5, 2014

IN RE: Application of Palmetto Wastewater)	ORDER APPOINTING
Reclamation, LLC (Alpine Utilities and)	HEARING OFFICER
Woodland Utilities Service Areas) for)	
Adjustment of Rates and Charges)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the request filed by counsel for Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation, LLC d/b/a Alpine Utilities and Woodland Utilities (“PWR”) for appointment of a hearing officer in Docket No. 2014-69-S regarding PWR’s Application for Adjustment of Rates and Charges for the provision of sewer service, and opportunities for mediation of same. We hereby grant PWR’s request. This appointment is in order that the hearing officer may work with the parties concerning PWR’s request and dispose of procedural and evidentiary matters pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-3-40 (Supp. 2013).

Section 58-3-40(C)(1) states that upon the request of any party or any commissioner, the commission may employ a hearing officer who may hear and determine procedural motions or other matters not determinative of the merits of the proceedings. Under (C)(2), the hearing officer has full authority, subject to being overruled by the Commission, to rule on questions concerning the conduct of the case

and other matters. Under (C)(3), the officer must be an attorney qualified to practice in all courts of this State with a minimum of eight years' practice experience.

We find that Joseph M. Melchers, Esquire, meets these qualifications, and we hereby appoint Mr. Melchers as hearing officer in Docket No. 2014-69-S. As hearing officer in this proceeding, we direct Mr. Melchers to work with the parties concerning PWR's request, rule on appropriate matters in the case and dispose of procedural and evidentiary matters for the proceeding.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Joseph M. Melchers, Esquire, is hereby appointed as hearing officer in Docket No. 2014-69-S for disposition of procedural and evidentiary matters.
2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Nikiya Hall, Chairman

ATTEST:



Swain E. Whitfield, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)